

States prior to mid-month. The depression formed on June 7 in the southwestern Gulf of Mexico, but dissipated the next day just east of Tampico, Mexico. Nevertheless, tropical showers persisted in the region for several more days. San Antonio's monthly rainfall of 7.61 inches (200% of normal)—more than 5 inches of which fell from June 8-13—represented their highest June total since 1987.

Although dry weather returned to southern Texas toward month's end, excessive rainfall continued to pound the southeastern Plains and adjacent areas. En route to a June-record rainfall of 14.39 inches (290% of normal), Fayetteville, AR netted more than 1 inch of rain on 5 different days (1.09 inches on the 14th, 2.41 inches on the 17th, 2.95 inches on the 21st, 1.11 inches on the 24th, and 4.46 inches on the 28th). Elsewhere in the region, monthly precipitation reached 11.98 inches in Muskogee, OK and 13.33 inches in Highfill, AR.

Cool weather accompanied the wet conditions, especially across the Plains and Midwest. After a record-hot May in Abilene, TX, during which the mercury hit 100°F on 7 days, there was no 100-degree heat there in June (the highest reading was 96°F on the 24th). Abilene's average temperature during June was 78.3°F, 1.9°F below normal and 1.1°F below their May reading. In Indiana, Indianapolis' highest temperature during June was 89°F on the 10th. Indianapolis most recently failed to reach the 90-degree mark during the first half of a year in 1997; their first occurrence that year was July 2. Similarly, Chicago, IL experienced their first June without 90-degree heat since 1960. In addition, Chicago went through May and June without a single dry spell longer than 3 days (their most recent 4-day dry spell stretched from April 24-27).

Farther west, however, very dry conditions persisted on the central High Plains. North Platte, NE received only 1.53 inches (45% of normal) in June, following their driest September-May period (6.46 inches, or 58%) since only 6.23 inches fell in 1952-53. In addition, North Platte's high of 104°F on June 7 represented their earliest occurrence (by 3 days) of a maximum temperature above 100°F. A day later, highs soared to 107°F in Pierre, SD and 101°F in Redwood Falls, MN.

The heat that briefly struck the Plains and upper Midwest followed an early-month cool spell. Williston, ND logged a low of 30°F on June 2. Valentine, NE noted a daily-record high of 102°F on the 8th, just 3 days after a daily-record low of 32°F. Cool weather was more persistent in New England, where Caribou, ME received a trace of sleet and snow on June 11 (their second-latest observation of frozen precipitation behind June 17, 1964). The following day, Bangor, ME notched a daily-record low of 38°F.

Intense heat arrived along the West Coast at mid-month. San Jose, CA notched consecutive record highs (100 and 109°F) on June 13-14, the second of which broke their June and all-time records. Elsewhere in California on the 14th, all-time-record highs were set or tied in locations such as Paso Robles (115°F), Mountain View/Moffett Field (106°F), and downtown San Francisco/Duboce Park (103°F). The following day, Death Valley, CA noted 126°F, just 2°F shy of the June record, set on June 30, 1994.

Meanwhile in the Southwest, Phoenix, AZ marked their second-earliest monsoon onset (defined in Phoenix as the third consecutive day with an average dewpoint of 55°F or higher) on June 17. Phoenix's earliest monsoon start date was June 16, 1925, exactly 3 weeks earlier than normal. For the month, showers dropped 0.30 inch (231% of normal) in Phoenix and 1.56 inches (780%) in Tucson, AZ, their wettest June since a record 2.07-inch total in 1938. Even more impressive totals soaked parts of southern New Mexico, where June rainfall reached 5.54 inches (298% of normal) in Ruidoso and 4.58 inches (654%) in Silver City. Although showers helped to suppress wildfire activity in the Southwest, the national wildfire acreage through June (over 1.5 million acres) was more than 170% of the 10-year average.

In Alaska, monthly temperatures generally ranged from 0 to 3°F above normal. Portions of mainland Alaska turned unfavorably dry, contributing to the spread of numerous late-month wildfires that consumed more than 150,000 acres in the Yukon and Tanana River Valleys. In Fairbanks, where thick smoke arrived during the last week in June, monthly rainfall totaled 0.72 inch (53% of normal). Fairbanks' temperatures—at or above normal on 21 days

during June, including a high of 83°F on the 24th—averaged 1.7°F above normal. Also on the 24th, Bethel's high of 80°F represented their highest temperature since July 5, 1997. A day later, St. Paul Island's high of 62°F eclipsed their previous June record of 61°F, set on June 27, 1984. Elsewhere, significant precipitation dampened both northern and southern Alaska. On the Arctic Coast, Barrow netted 0.74 inch (264% of normal), including only their third thunderstorm (on the 19th) since 1978. Farther south, Juneau's monthly rainfall, 5.72 inches (182% of normal), was their third-highest June total on record, while Cold Bay's total of 8.35 inches (398%) was a June record.

Extremes Maximum Temperature (°F)

JUN 2000

